

Application No. 10/052,706
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. The apparatus of claim † 52, wherein said signal outputting device is switch comprises one of a release switch and a power switch.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim † 52, further comprising:

a warning section to issue a warning, ~~in case that if~~ said signal value does not reach to said predetermined value when a predetermined time has elapsed since ~~said first photoelectronic~~ the photoelectric converting action of the first group circuit cells was commenced.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim † 52, wherein, ~~in case that if~~ said signal value does not reach to said predetermined value when a predetermined time has elapsed since ~~said first photoelectronic~~ the photoelectric converting action of the first group circuit cells was commenced, said ~~first photoelectronic~~ photoelectric converting action performed by said

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first ~~photoelectronic converting element~~ group circuit cells is finalized.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 52, wherein, ~~in case that if~~ said signal value does not reach to said predetermined value when a predetermined time has elapsed since ~~said first photoelectronic~~ the photoelectric converting action of 5 the first group circuit cells was commenced, whether or not to continue said ~~first photoelectronic~~ photoelectric converting action performed by said first ~~photoelectronic~~ converting element ~~is continued~~ group circuit cells is determined in response to a predetermined operation.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:

a mode selecting device to select either one of a first mode in which said ~~first photoelectronic~~ photoelectric converting 5 action performed by said first ~~photoelectronic~~ converting element group circuit cells is continued in response to said predetermined operation, or and a second mode in which said first ~~photoelectronic~~ converting element performs first group circuit cells perform an action other than continuing said first 10 ~~photoelectronic~~ photoelectric converting action in response to said predetermined operation.

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9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein,
said predetermined operation is to operate ~~a release~~ said switch.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 52 ~~claim 1~~,
further comprising:

an aperture device, disposed between ~~a subject~~ said object
and said ~~first photoelectronic converting element~~ imager, to vary
5 a diameter of an aperture opening;

wherein, ~~in case that if~~ said signal value does not reach to
said predetermined value when a predetermined time has elapsed
since said ~~first photoelectronic photoelectric~~ converting action
~~by the first group circuit cells~~ was commenced, said aperture
10 device increases said diameter of said aperture opening.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said
aperture device varies said diameter of said aperture opening in
a non-step mode.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said
aperture device varies said diameter of said aperture opening in
a stepwise mode.

Claims 13-51 (Canceled).

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52. (New) An apparatus for capturing an image of an object, comprising:

a controller to control an image forming operation of the apparatus;

5 a first addressing circuit communicating with the controller for designating a first address;

a second addressing circuit communicating with the controller for designating a second address;

10 a switch communicating with the controller for outputting an image capturing start signal; and

an imager having a plurality of circuit cells two-dimensionally arranged within an image area where the image is projected, the plurality of circuit cells respectively corresponding to pixels of the image;

15 wherein each of the plurality of circuit cells comprises:

a photoelectric converting element to generate charges associated with an amount of light from the object;

a charge storing element to store charges transferred from the photoelectric converting element; and

20 a MOS transistor, including a drain that is electrically connected to the charge storing element, a gate that is controlled by the first addressing circuit, and a source that is controlled by the second addressing circuit;

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wherein the circuit cells are arbitrarily selectable as one
25 of an arbitrary single circuit cell and an arbitrary group of
circuit cells by the controller by designating one of a single
address and a group of addresses at a time via the first and
second addressing circuits, so as to discharge charges from one
of a selected single charge storing element and a selected group
30 of charge storing elements;

wherein the plurality of circuit cells are divided into:
(i) first group circuit cells to capture the image of the object,
and (ii) second group circuit cells, which are substantially
uniformly disposed in the first group circuit cells in the image
35 area, to measure an amount of light from the object for a
photometry operation; and

wherein the controller controls the first group circuit
cells and the second group circuit cells to simultaneously
commence respective photoelectric converting actions thereof in
40 response to the image-capturing start signal, wherein the
controller measures a signal value of at least one circuit cell
selected by the controller in the second group circuit cells
while the first group circuit cells are performing the
photoelectric converting action thereof, and wherein the
45 controller stops the photoelectric converting action of the first
group circuit cells when the signal value reaches a predetermined
value.